

Radical

Lesson 1: Someone Worth Losing Everything For

DAY 1

Read Chapter 1

Memory Verse: You cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.
Luke 14.33

Context: Do we believe Christ is worth abandoning everything for? Do we believe Jesus is so good, so satisfying, and so rewarding that we will leave all we have, all we own, and all we are to find our fullness in Him? Do we believe Him enough to obey Him and to follow Him wherever He leads, even when the crowds in our culture, and maybe in our churches, turn the other way? The cost of following Christ is great. However, the cost of not following Christ is even greater. The cost of believers not taking Jesus seriously is vast for those who don't know Christ and devastating for those who are starving and suffering around the world. The cost of not abandoning everything to follow Christ is great for those men and women who miss out on the infinite joy of knowing and experiencing Christ in all His fullness.

DAY 2

BIBLE STUDY

Focal Passage: Luke 14.25-33

Supporting Passages: Matthew 4.18-22; Luke 9.57-62; Phil. 3.1-14

1. If you had been in the crowd that day and had heard the words of Jesus in Luke 14.25-33, how do you think you would have reacted?
2. In verse 26, what did Jesus mean when He used the word "hate"? (Compare Matt. 10.37) Why did Jesus use such a strong word as "hate"?
3. When Jesus referred to the "cross" in verse 27, what image do you believe was formed in the minds of His listeners? What comes to mind for us when we think of the cross?
4. What is Jesus' main point in the parables He uses of the builder (v. 28-30) and the king (v. 31-32)?

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5. Verse 33 is a ***radical*** verse. Why would Jesus require His disciples to abandon everything they own? How does this verse apply to you personally?
6. According to these verses, what does it take to follow Jesus?

DAY 3

1. Write in your own words the meaning of the word “devotion.”
2. After reading the section “Puddles of Tears” (p. 4-6), would you describe the devotion of these people as ***radical***? Why or why not?
3. Think about your own spiritual activities for the past week and list as many as come to mind below. Beside each spiritual activity above, identify how much risk or cost was involved in each activity. Practically, how much does it cost you personally to follow Jesus?
4. If you get a chance, watch an episode of “Hoarders” on the A&E Channel. You can watch an entire episode or just a portion on line at www.aetv.com/hoarders. Even after a person is identified as a hoarder, what is their typical reaction?
5. Do you believe there are things in your life that you might not really need yet cling to for security or comfort anyway?

DAY 4

1. Based on your previous knowledge, how would you define discipleship? Include in your answer how other people define the requirements of a disciple.

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2. Read back over Luke 14.25-33 and make a list of the things that Jesus used to define a disciple. Are there differences between this list and the one you made in the previous question?
3. Draw a circle in the middle of a sheet of paper and label it “you.” Then, brainstorm all of the categories of people with whom you have relationships (spouse, children, parents, relatives, friends, co-workers, etc.). Next, draw circles around your circle to represent these relationships. Rank each category of relationship according to their importance and assign each category a number.
4. After completing the exercise above, where does Jesus fit into this ranking or this picture of the relationships in your life? Can you truthfully say that your relationship with Jesus takes precedence over your relationship with the people in all of these categories? Read Luke 14.26 again and pray that Christ will help you to place Jesus above all other relationships.

DAY 5

1. Draw a picture of a cross on a sheet of paper. What thoughts or images come to mind whenever you see a cross? What thoughts might have entered into the minds of a first-century believer when they thought of a cross?
2. Read again Luke 14.27. Then re-read the section “A Different Scene” (p. 6-7). Compare and contrast the attitudes and commitments of those in the previous section with that of a typical American Christian. What would you conclude is the greatest hindrance to our following where Jesus desires to lead us?
3. Using a dictionary or in your own words, identify the difference between an aspiration and a goal.
4. Based on your understanding of these two words, is becoming a disciple of Christ more an aspiration or a goal?

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5. What are some of the costs we must consider when making the commitment to follow Christ's call to be His discipleship? Remember to include the effect your decision may have on others close to you.

DAY 6

1. Think back over your life and consider one or more of the wildest, craziest dreams you ever had for your life. Now think about the hindrances that either prevented you from fulfilling those dreams or that may still be hindering you.
2. For the disciple of Christ, what should be the ultimate goal of our lives? Refer again to Luke 14.33. Now consider what constraints or hindrances currently exist that keep you from reaching this goal of following Jesus.
3. When Jesus says anyone who does not give up everything cannot be His disciple, what does He mean by "everything"?
4. Think about your own commitment to Christ. Use the scale below to help determine whether or not you are a **radical** Christian by circling the value that best defines you.

	Least Radical				Most Radical
Obedience to Christ	1	2	3	4	5
Passion for the Lost	1	2	3	4	5
Compassion for the Poor	1	2	3	4	5

5. How do you think your obedience to Christ, your passion for the lost, and your compassion for the poor can become more **radical**? Are you willing to make the commitment to become a more **radical** Christian?